GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6274
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2005
SCRAP METALS
Meghwal Shri Kailash

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Department of Customs keep record, monitoring and verification of goods coming into the country via water,land and air routes from other countries;

(b) whether scrap of explosives in huge quantity has been imported due to the negligence and carelessness of this Department in the recent past which has reached in various parts of the country;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard, the names of places where scrap has been found and quantity thereof;

(d) whether live rockets, bombs, explosives, anti aircraft, anti tank have been reached in various parts of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether detailed enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(g) if so, the outcomes thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM)

(a) Goods imported in terms of Foreign Trade Policy 2004-2009 are allowed to be cleared into the country by the Department of Customs on the basis of documents produced namely, Bill of Lading,Invoice, packing list etc. and after examination and payment of duty where applicable.

(b) & (c) No. In terms of the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-2009, import of metal scrap is allowed without a licence but subject to certain conditions. Such metal scrap was being allowed to be cleared by the Department of Customs after checking of the documents produced and percentage of examination and after payment of duty as applicable.In the background of an explosion at the premises of a scrap importer at Ghaziabad on 30th September, 2004, the entire clearance procedure of scrap was reviewed and streamlined in consultation with the concerned Ministries. Accordingly,importation and clearance of metal scrap in unshredded, compressed and loose form is now allowed only at twenty one specified ports and Inland Container Depots provided the goods are accompanied by a pre-shipment inspection certificate in the prescribed format and further that examination of 25% of the containers will be carried out in respect of manufacturer importers and 50% in respect of traders for each consignment subject to examination of a minimum of one container which will be 100% examined.

(d)&(e) In certain cases live rockets, bombs, explosives etc. were found in the metal scrap but have been detained by the Department of customs for necessary further action.

(f),(g) &(h) The enquiry conducted in this regard did not reveal any bid to clandestinely induct terrorist hardware amidst scrap being imported into India. Most of the ordnance and ainmunition was outmoded/ not fit for use.